Volume 30, Edition 8 August 2026

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS

President's Letter:

—By **Don KO6DXF**

July was an interesting month! I spent some time in Medina Ohio with the wife's side of the family and unfortunately missed the July in person meeting that never happened due to a scheduling error at the police department. Therefore, the minutes are approved for July and you will spend the rest of time looking for them in the newsletter!

I did make a contact with the local ham radio club from Medina County Radio Amateur Club on two meters with my HT. I was planning on going to their meeting on July 13th! But, the wife had the rental car and the in-laws had other plans for me.

I did get to see the Big Boy steam locomotive go by on a hot day trip to Rocky River. Very impressive! Hundreds of thousands of people showed up and shot a great video of it going bye. Enough of my fun in the sun, heat and humidity.

I finally finished my QRP Labs, QMX+ radio kit! I want to thank Stan (NJ6E) for troubleshooting the unit while I was away. Seems I missed a few solder joints points under the display screen. You made it much easier for me to move ahead with learning the ins and outs of the unit. Glad I printed out the 135 page manual and built the QRP dummy load kit. I was testing with it and things were going along fine. But for some reason THIS DUMMY swapped out their dummy load with my other DL-30A load I use on my other radios when testing and the Mode/Band nob wasn't changing states. Didn't catch that and it was late at night. Caught it the next morning when I decided to use their dummy load again. BINGO. Very impressed with all it can do and plan on taking on the next SOTA outing with ED (W1EJ) and Dave (KD6FIL) on August 12th. I'll have an update on that adventure in the September newsletter!

NEXT MEETING
Wed, **August 19, 2026** at 7:30 PM
in Training Room at the
Sonoma Police Department,
175 First St West, Sonoma.
Project: Building 2M/70cM antennas
Presenters: Ed and Dave

VE Liaison News

—By Liz N6LY

We held a test session on July 25th with two candidates testing for their Amatuer Extra. I am pleased to announce that they both passed on the first try.

Please congratulate Andrew (KE6HID) and Jerry (KO6JBI) next time you see them.

A big thank you to the VE Team, who helped- Sanford (N7PIB), Kevin (K0SQ), Barbara (K6WHY), and Paula (AK6NN).

NEXT TEST SESSION

Are you looking to get Licensed for Amateur Radio or upgrade? Join in on the fun. Make new friends.

Our next test session will be on **Saturday, September 25th,** Sonoma Police Station, 175 1st Street West EOC Room Sonoma CA 95476

If you are interested, please reserve a spot by emailing Liz at n6ly.emm@gmail.com.

All our test sessions start at 10:00 AM

CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS

- A photo identification or (2) non-photo ID's
- FCC Registration Number
- Original and a photocopy of your current license (if licensed)
- Exam fee is $15.00, Under 18 is $5.00

WHY TEST WITH US?

Every candidate who takes an FCC examination with VOMARC is entitled to a free year of membership in the club, regardless of whether you pass or not! Each applicant is also provided with a welcome kit of some helpful information on how to get started on their Amateur Radio adventure.

Misc

- A Taiwanese college student stopped a train with his laptop and a couple of radios, causing massive system delays and getting him into hot water.
- You can build a simple radio wave detector using balls of aluminum foil.
- Many Hams fondly recall Heathkit products. YouTube has a nice video with a detailed history of the company and its founders.
- The Europeans are experimenting with infrared laser communications as the demand for satellite bandwidth increases.
- The Carrington Event of 1859 was a solar storm so intense that telegraph operators kept sending messages after disconnecting their batteries because the storm itself was powering the lines — and a Lloyd's of London risk model estimates a comparable event today could cost the U.S. up to 2.6 trillion dollars.
- Have we settled the debate between soldered versus crimped connectors?

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

CQ VHF Digital Contest

There was no great opening on 6M yielding any new grids. But there was a long enough opening into Arizona and the Rockies up to Wyoming to make things interesting enough to stick around and log 26 total QSOs. I heard some stations further east, but they could not hear me.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Summit Adventures with Ed, Dave, and Don,

Robbs Peak, W6/NS-266 and Big Hill, W6/NS-290, and a park too, Eldorado National Forest US-4455.

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

W1EJ and I and added another soul to the crew as we headed out on another summit adventure on Tuesday, July 28. And the surprise was that nothing went wrong! Well, Don, KO6DXF, did forget his phone, but other than that we were good. The plan was to activate Robbs Peak, east of Placerville and north of Highway 50 and catch Big Hill on the way back to Highway 50. Both the peaks are worth 6 points each. The adventure started at the 5:30 **AM** at the Ed's house and we picked up Don at the park and ride at the intersection of Hwy 116 and 121. It was getting light when we picked up Don. The traffic was in our favor and we cruised through Sacramento with no issues. After a gas stop in Pollack Pines is was up to Ice House Road, where we turned off Hwy 50. There were logging trucks coming down Ice House Road, but we didn't meet any. So far, the road was paved, but that would soon change as we turned onto the dirt road up to Robbs Peak

Ed's operating location at Robb's Peak

after about 20 miles of pavement. There is a gate about ½ mile below the summit, and it was unlocked. We thought about it, but after being in the car for 3 hours we were ready for a short hike to the summit. At the summit we got Don set up on the picnic table in front of the lookout tower, because we knew that operating SSB was going to take a while with 15 watts. I set up on the other side of the lookout tower and ran FT8. Ed set up his antenna near the outhouse, see the photo, and was running CW. I made 5-FT8 contacts pretty quick, while Ed cranked out 20 or more CW contacts. Don struggled to make 3-SSB contacts. To get the activation complete for Don, Ed and I walked outside the activation zone and called Don on 2-meter simplex. Robbs Peak is a great spot and has a cabin at the lookout that the Forest Service rents out if anyone wants to hangout up there for a few days. It is a beautiful location. The hike down to the car was quick and we loaded up and headed back down the road to

Big Hill. Big Hill has a paved road all the way to the lookout. The lookout is manned and there are a lot of other communication towers at the site. We did not have interference problems even with all the towers. It looked like most of the towers had microwave dishes. Ed cranked out another 20 or so CW contacts and I made 5-FT8 contacts to make the park activation and the summit activation. Don got his 5 contacts with a few on HF and a few on 2m FM simplex. That completed the activations and we loaded up and headed down the hill. We dropped off Don at around 4:30 and made it back to Ed's house by 5 PM. No major excitement on the trip but it was successful and fun. I hope Don is ready with his QMX+ and FT8 to go on our next adventure.

Parks on the Air Fun

—Submitted by Liz NGLY

In July, Kevin (K0SQ) and I took a road trip to Colorado.

Along the way, we decided to stop at a few parks and do some POTA.

Fortunately, people found us quickly and I was able to get 20-30, in the logs, in 10-15 minutes. On the way, We activated three parks in Nevada. They have recently added Historical Markers in Nevada to the parks list. These were fairly easy to find and close to Hwy 80. On day two of our trip , we activated one park in Utah and one in Wyoming. The Utah park was one of my favorites, being a stop along the Union Pacific Historic Rail Trail. We had made a 2M simplex call with someone, while driving and I was able to contact him again, on 2M, while at the park.

While in Colorado, we activated three parks. Since it was "Support Your Parks" weekend, we had quite the pile-ups, and made a lot of contacts.

We took it easy on the way home, we activated one park in Wyoming and three in Utah that were fairly close together.

Overall, I activated 12 parks, with about 420 SSB QSOs.

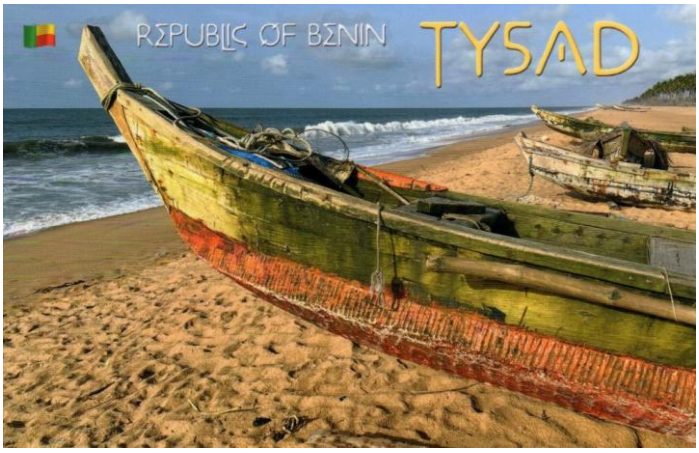
US-5913 UT

Marconi Money

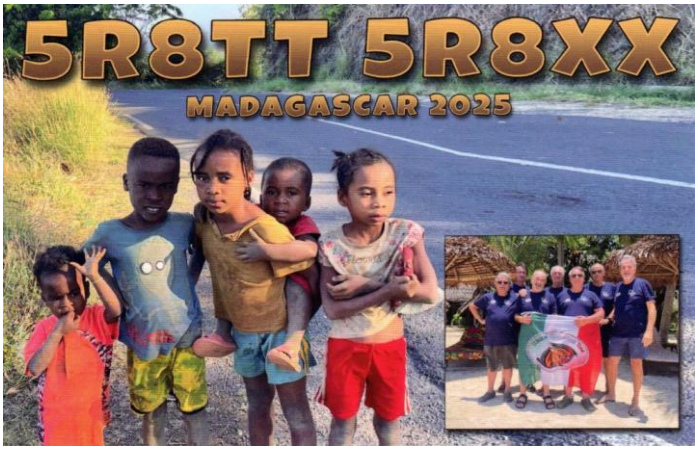
While going through some things to sell on eBay I came across this 2,000 Lire (pre Euro days) banknote from Italy. It features a portrait of Guglielmo Marconi, the father of radio, on the front. On the back there are three elements related to radio. The spark gap radio and antenna towers are clear enough. The ship, called the Elettra, belonged to Marconi at one point and he conducted numerous experiments in radio on it.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

QSL Card Inbox



I worked TY5AD in Benin using FT8 on the 20M, 17M, 15M and 10M bands. Three of the four QSOs were made from my very modest home station.



I worked 5R8TT on the island of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean on 20M using CW. It was a new mode country for me.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 30 EDITION 8

A PUBLICATION OF VOMARC, THE VALLEY OF THE MOON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Don Garnett, KO6DXF – President

Ed Jacobson, W1EJ—Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Moe Llanes, KI6JNU – ACS Unit Leader

Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey, N6LY – VE Liaison

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Editor

Robert Barron, KA5WSS — Webmeister

"Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC. "—S. Marler

WEB PAGE: **http://www.vomarc.org/**

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

Breakfast Nets are held every Tuesday and Saturday morning at 7:30 AM on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

–or–

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.
C/O Sonoma Police Department
175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

ACS
NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	DARREL	WD6BOR
MARCH	DON	KO6DXF
APRIL	STEVE	N6SMJ
MAY	DAVE	KD6FIL
JUNE	MOE	KI6JNU
JULY	DON	KO6DXF
AUGUST	DAVE	KD6FIL
SEPTEMBER	DON	KO6DXF
OCTOBER	STEVE	N6SMJ
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

VOMARC
NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS

	Name	Call
JANUARY	ROBERT	KA5WSS
FEBRUARY	DARREL	WD6BOR
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	STEVE	N6SM
JUNE	DON	KO6DXF
JULY	ED	W1EJ
AUGUST	CARL	N6TTV
SEPTEMBER	ED	WIEJ
OCTOBER	JOHN	W8EWL
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2026

Membership Dues: $15/year individual; $5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC Membership: Complimentary with Class—Date: _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen:

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1st St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC.**